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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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## CORRECTION: 10 SCHOOLS GET GRANT FOR SUICIDE, VIOLENCE AND BULLYING PREVENTION EFFORTS

(BOISE) – This fall, 10 schools will receive a grant to train staff and students to help prevent suicide, violence, and bullying through the Sources of Strength Program.

The 10 schools join 49 other schools that have received grants from the Idaho Department of Education, in partnership with the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare. School leaders apply for the \$2,400 grants, which provides program support and training for two years with ongoing support.

"I appreciate this partnership that allows us to support educators and students about how to have the meaningful conversations with peers," said Superintendent of Public Instruction Sherri Ybarra. "This effort complements our bullying initiative, and is one of the best things we can do to teach people that it is OK to seek help when you are bullied or are struggling with the challenges of life."

The following schools were selected through a competitive application process:

- New Horizon Center, Pocatello
- Owyhee Combined School
- Heritage Academy, Jerome
- Marsing Middle School
- North Junior High School, Boise
- Lakeside Jr/Sr High School, Plummer
- Pathways Middle School, Meridian
- Rivervue Middle School, Caldwell
- Centennial High School, Boise
- Rigby High School

The most recent <u>Youth Risk Behavior Survey</u> conducted by the Idaho State Department of Education highlights the need for programs such as Sources of Strength. During the 2014-2015 school year, 20% of students surveyed in grades 9-12 had seriously considered attempting suicide. In addition, 3% of Idaho students reported having made a suicide attempt during the past 12 months from when the survey was conducted. In 2013, suicide was the second leading cause of deaths among youth aged 10 to 19 in Idaho.

To learn more about the Sources of Strength program, visit <a href="https://sourcesofstrength.org/">https://sourcesofstrength.org/</a>. Additional information about suicide prevention, bullying, violence, drug and alcohol prevention is available at <a href="http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/sdfs/index.html">http://www.sde.idaho.gov/student-engagement/sdfs/index.html</a>.

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